

Solutions

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America reaches a tipping point for climate action

Two years ago, when Senators John McCain and Joe Lieberman first proposed global warming legislation, they broke Washington's silence on our greatest environmental challenge. By the time they introduced an updated bill last month, that silence had become a roar. Governors, mayors, faith leaders, investors and—hardest to ignore—several of America's mightiest corporations had begun not only to call for urgent climate action but to take bold action themselves. In the space of a week, General Electric, Xerox and the electric utility Exelon all committed to cap their emissions of carbon dioxide, the main global warming gas.

With the pressure building for Congress to act, senators are now vying to see which of several global warming bills will prevail. It's crucial that the right bill get passed, which is why Environmental Defense has deployed staff and consultants in key states from Arkansas to Ohio to help win votes for the Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act.

The bill, authored by John McCain (R-AZ) and Joe Lieberman (D-CT), is the only measure that significantly reduces carbon dioxide pollution, by creating a fixed, economy-wide cap on emissions and a trading system that lets companies find the lowest-cost means for meeting their cap. To help jump-start "low-carbon" technologies, the bill adds industry-funded subsidies for biofuels, large-scale

Senate action on climate was imminent as this newsletter went to press. For the latest news updates, visit undoit.org/update.

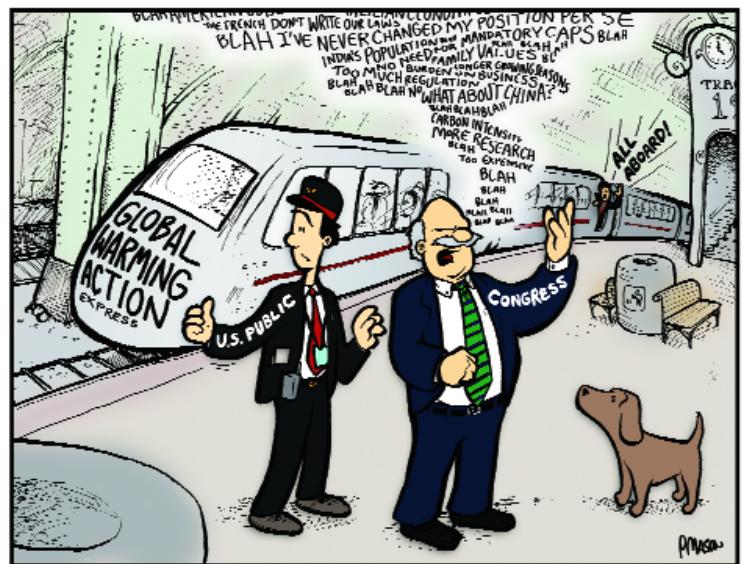
solar, carbon storage (in forests, farms and underground) and even nuclear power (see Q&A on page 8).

COMPETING BILLS WON'T DO THE JOB

None of the other bills does as much for the environment or the economy. The bill from Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) neither caps emissions nor taps private sector innovation, relying instead exclusively on subsidies—4 billion tax dollars—for pilot programs. A proposal from Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) includes a "safety valve" that allows Congress to raise the cap on pollution if prices for carbon rise to a certain level. Economists tell us this will curb investment in energy-efficient and low-carbon technologies.

Entrepreneurs will want the chance to

Please see
Cover Story, p. 2



UM... EXCUSE ME, SIR, ISN'T THAT YOUR TRAIN?

We are all environmentalists now



When a passionate cause becomes a mainstream value, has the cause died, or lost its way? I think not.

Today, thanks to proposals made by ardent environmentalists—and politicians who have ranged from reluctant to enthusiastic—America's air is healthier and its waterways less polluted. All without impeding economic growth.

Still, environmental groups face greater challenges than we could have imagined when we began. Chief among these is global warming.

Weary of defensive battles and incremental progress, a few have despaired, declaring environmentalism dead. They call on the environ-

mental movement to pool strength with labor unions and other progressive causes. Some have gone so far as to ask conservatives to leave the movement.

I share their desire to accomplish more, but I reject their prescription. The environment is not exclusively a liberal cause and never was. People

A passionate cause becomes a mainstream value

who care about the environment are hard-core Democrats and Republicans, hikers and hunters, doctors and fishermen, ranchers and evangelists, with new champions constantly emerging.

Many corporations now regard environmentalism as good business. Seeing future profits, GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt

recently announced his company will double its investment in low-carbon technologies. FedEx is saving on fuel and cleaning the air by pioneering hybrid-electric trucks. DuPont saved \$1.6 billion by increasing efficiency to cut global warming pollution.

Environmentalists must continue to lead with passion and insist on progress. But to address immense challenges like global warming, we must appeal to the creativity, imagination and entrepreneurship of all segments of society.

At one time, humans' impact on nature was unintentional. Now we have no choice but to be responsible stewards of the environment. We are all environmentalists now.

Congress wrangles over global warming bills

Continued from p. 1

profit, not price controls.

Multinational corporations understand cap-and-trade, and many already operate as if a U.S. carbon market were in place. State and local political leaders are equally clear: Governor Schwarzenegger recently issued an executive order to reduce greenhouse gases in

California 80% by 2050. "Just as President Kennedy inspired our nation to be the first to set foot on the moon, Schwarzenegger's commitment will inspire one of the world's top economies to develop innovative solutions," said our California regional director Tom Graff, who helped develop the plan.

Executives like GE chairman Jeffrey Immelt and Duke Energy CEO Paul Anderson want the same clarity from the federal government. "We've been very vocal that we want a broad cap, because it provides certainty," said Brent Dorsey, director of corporate environmental programs at the electric utility Entergy.

The Senate at last is listening. In 2003, 43 senators voted to cap carbon emissions. With a

new Senate, it will be challenging to maintain that number, still more to exceed it.

Will Congress unleash America's ingenuity to help address the serious problem of global warming? Let's hope 2005 is remembered as the year America finally took up the challenge.



Local action: 150 mayors committed to cap global warming pollution. Seattle will ban idling by cruise ships.



Solutions

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MAILBAG

Editor:

What great news on the new clean air rule (May-June *Solutions*)! Your help in convincing EPA to enforce this much better approach than Clear Skies will help the health of millions of people young and old.

Emily Philips
Newburgh, NY



Walter Hodges/Getty Images

Editor:

I live in Pennsylvania, just off Route 34, a secondary road. Tractor trailers have practically taken it over. Why do you never mention pollution from trucks in *Solutions*? I have read that one tractor trailer can cause as much pollution as 10,000 cars!

Mrs. Norman Eaken
Gardners, PA

Our attorney Janea Scott responds:
Diesel truck exhaust is indeed a major pollutant, containing more than 40 toxic substances, some at far higher levels than in car exhaust. Environmental Defense aims to reduce diesel pollution by 80% within ten years. In 2000 we helped win strict limits on pollution from new diesel trucks. But because older vehicles run for years, the full benefits—8,300 fewer deaths per year—won't be realized until 2030 or beyond. So we're pressing for programs to clean up existing diesels (see page 9 for a New York victory that could serve as a national model).

PLEASE WRITE US!

See addresses at left.

In praise of thorn scrub

A BIOLOGIST WORKS TO EXTEND THE OCELOT'S HABITAT

Linda Laack emerges from a thicket of thorn scrub and whips out a roll of duct tape. She deftly applies strips to her clothes to remove the chiggers and ticks. "This is not a glamorous job," she concedes with a smile.

After 20 years researching ocelots in south Texas, Laack, an Environmental Defense biologist, has survived encounters with killer bees, rattlesnakes and heat. She's also learned some intimate secrets. For instance, the reclusive ocelots are attracted by Obsession, the men's cologne by Calvin Klein.

With the upscale cologne serving as bait, the ocelots are lured to a spot where they trip the shutter on Laack's hidden camera. "Having them take self-portraits is a great way to learn about them," she says. Each ocelot has a unique spot pattern, so identifying individuals is not hard.

Once common across southern Texas, ocelots have almost vanished in the United States. Displaced by agriculture and hunted for their pelts, these sleek cats have been reduced to between 50 and 100 survivors. Roughly half are holding out in patches of thorn scrub around the Laguna

Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.

The ocelots are safe while in the scrub. But hemmed in by ranches and the encroaching suburbs of Brownsville, they are in danger of inbreeding and face a high risk of being hit by cars. The nearest ocelots in Mexico are 150 miles away.

"If we don't do something to help them, this population will not be sustainable," says Laack. "But the challenge is huge."

More landowners are joining our effort.

Since the portion of the refuge suitable for ocelots is already at capacity, Environmental Defense is working to expand habitat on neighboring private lands.

We've partnered with eight landowners in Texas and Mexico to plant native thorn scrub, funded in part by the Meadows Foundation. We've also teamed up with The Nature Conservancy and Pronatura Noreste, a Mexican conservation group, to create a cross-border corridor of habitat.

"Planting thorn scrub will help native green jays and chachalacas as well as migratory birds like warblers and orioles," says Laack. "The diversity of wildlife that can live in this harsh yet productive environment is amazing."



Robert Winslow/Animals Animals

Someday, the ocelot may join the whooping crane, aplomado falcon and brown pelican as a south Texas endangered species brought back from the brink of extinction.

In depth

Putting markets to work on the fisheries crisis 'CATCH SHARES' WILL HELP TEXAS SHRIMPERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Phillip Lara was working at his fish market near the mouth of the Nueces River, near Corpus Christi, TX, when he heard the first explosions. "I thought my shop would crack in half, they were so loud," said Lara. Soon dead fish started coming to the surface, "an ugly sight," Lara recalled. It turned out an oil prospecting company was conducting seismic tests under the biologically rich estuary.

Fishing boat owners began frantically calling federal and state agencies about the oil drilling. "We said you're hurting us. The shrimp and fish have all gone," said Lara. "But our calls didn't seem to make a difference until Pam Baker called." Baker, an Environmental Defense fisheries biologist, contacted a state official, and "the drilling soon stopped," Lara said. "We're happy Environmental Defense helped us out."

The good will may pay off as Environmental Defense works to improve the economic and ecological performance of the commercial fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico.

The \$360 million Gulf shrimp industry is America's single most valuable fishery. It is also responsible for a host of environmental ills. Bottom-dragging gear



C.C. Lockwood/Animals Animals

Overcoming a legacy of mutual distrust, shrimpers and environmentalists joined forces to preserve valuable habitat.

damages habitat and can cause heavy "bycatch," the accidental killing of sea turtles and valuable fish. Excess trawling due to faulty regulations is the main culprit.

One barrier to reform has been the long simmering distrust between shrimpers and environmentalists. After Lara started working with Environmental Defense, he received threatening calls and once found the windows on his boat broken. "Fishermen think environmentalists want to drive them out of business," said Lara. "I realized they just want us to be more efficient."

Environmental Defense decided to build trust and create momentum for change through a series of positive actions. In Louisiana, we are working with the Louisiana Seafood Marketing board on a "Turtle Safe" label to build consumer demand for eco-friendly shrimp.

"The industry's economic and environmental problems are linked," said Baker. "So are the solutions. Higher quality fish are often a sign of good harvesting practices."

'The economic and environmental solutions are linked.'

We also are working to give fishermen an ownership share in the resource, which will give them a stake in recovery. In Texas, this means teaming up with shrimpers in the Coastal Bend area to try a new management structure: Instead of

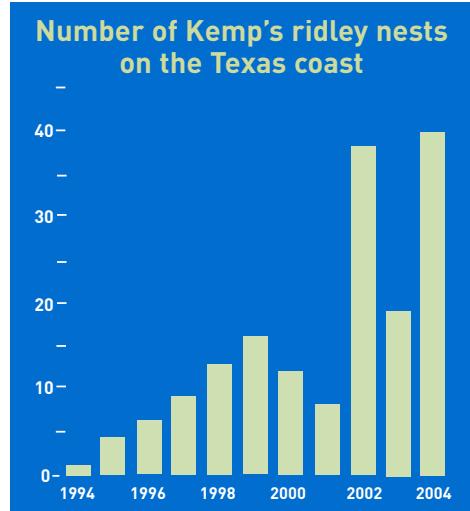
facing burdensome regulations, each fisherman simply will receive a quota share of the allowable catch, verified by a strict monitoring program. If this pilot "catch share"

program works, shrimpers statewide may join. "We spent a lot of time on the docks talking about how fishing quotas work," says Baker. "I see a real shift in attitude towards solving problems."

A NATIONAL MODEL

President Bush, who as Texas governor endorsed catch shares at the urging of our staff, has committed to using this approach for several fisheries nationwide and asked us to help set parameters.

With thousands of boats plying Gulf waters, ever-increasing competition from imports and shrinking profits, there is an opportunity for change. "A modern



Courtesy Dr. Donna Shaver, USGS

Cooperation with fishermen has helped rebuild sea turtle populations.

Gulf shrimp industry can be both profitable and environmentally friendly," said Baker. In Texas, we supported the state's effort to buy out more than 1,000 licenses and helped win a moratorium on new permits. Less shrimp trawling ultimately means less bycatch and habitat damage, with better profits for fishermen.

Environmental Defense recently organized a Shrimp Forum and proposed new ideas on fishery economics, conservation and marketing. It was the first time that representatives of the U.S., Canadian and Mexican shrimp industries had come together to discuss their visions of the future.

"Through dialogue, things change," said Lara. "If the fishing community doesn't come together to work with Environmental Defense, we'll be stuck with more bad decisions from government."

"Environmental Defense has gained our trust by showing it cares about fishermen. A lot of doors are starting to open."

How an endangered sea turtle is making a comeback

A stretch of shallow, productive water along the Texas coast is home to millions of shrimp. Not surprisingly, it's a favorite destination for both the Texas shrimp fleet and the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, which eats crabs, mollusks and shrimp. Until recently, the world's most endangered sea turtle had been on the losing side, ending up dead in shrimp nets.

But recent reforms, including a seasonal ban on trawling in the turtle's mating grounds, have made a comeback possible. "This is a reprieve for turtles to mate and crawl up the beach to nest," said our biologist Pam Baker. Recently, 6,400 nests were sighted, the highest since recovery efforts began. Here are the ingredients of success:



In the 1980s, as Kemp's ridleys neared extinction, scientists took extreme measures to help establish other nesting sites. They took Mexican hatchlings and nurtured them in a lab with Texas beach sand, releasing them a year later to the wild. Already, several have found their way to Texas beaches to lay their eggs.



Sea turtle nests are threatened by poaching and predation. The U.S. and Mexico reached agreement on habitat protection at Rancho Nuevo, the world's primary Kemp's ridley nesting site.



In hard-hit Texas fishing communities, shrimpers have gathered together to help finance the protection of nesting sites in Mexico.



To save turtles from drowning in shrimp nets, Environmental Defense and allies persuaded Gulf shrimpers to install "turtle excluder devices" that allow turtles to escape their nets.

Regional update

Will West Harlem's future be green?

New York's West Harlem hasn't been this hot since Duke Ellington's band took up residence at the Cotton Club.

Signs of change abound: Starbucks, Bill Clinton and soon Home Depot. What's next? One development proposal dwarfs all others: Columbia University's \$5 billion plan to extend its campus into the heart of Harlem's waterfront neighborhoods.

The university proposes replacing entire city blocks with a new campus of science labs, classrooms and faculty housing. "The redevelopment will change the face of West Harlem," says our policy analyst Ramon Cruz.

Environmental Defense has teamed up with WE ACT, a local environmental justice organization, to secure a community benefits agreement for the expansion. Until

now, the proposal's impact on the environment and the needs of local residents had not been thoroughly examined.

Columbia's plans worry its neighbors

"The opportunity for leadership is enormous," says Environmental Defense board member and WE ACT executive director Peggy Shepard. "But so is the potential to worsen local air quality, choke the streets with trucks and cars and cut off public access to the Hudson River." One-quarter of school-age children in Harlem suffer from asthma, made worse by local air pollution.

Last year, Environmental Defense helped secure significant environmental and job benefits as part of the expansion of Los Angeles International Airport. "We'd like to see something similar happen here," says Cruz.



Harlem renaissance? Columbia plans to redevelop an 18-acre tract along the Hudson River.



NOAA

Not just in the tropics: Cold water corals shelter a variety of ocean life.

Protecting unseen coral gardens in the Atlantic

In deep sea canyons thousands of feet beneath the whitecaps of the Atlantic, secret gardens are blooming. Colorful corals, growing very slowly in the cold and dark, can take centuries to reach the size of a front-yard shrub. Tragically, a single pass of a fishing trawler's bottom-dragging gear or a poorly placed fish trap can wipe them out in an instant.

Last year Environmental Defense worked with the New England Fishery Management Council to prohibit the use of destructive fishing gear in two precious deep-water coral canyons south of Cape Cod. In addition to safeguarding the fragile corals, the action helps protect commercially harvested species like tilefish, monkfish and redfish found in the canyons.

Recently, we proposed classifying 10 more deep canyons between Massa-

chusetts and North Carolina as areas of particular concern. Our marine conservation advocate Sally McGee, chair of the fishery council's habitat committee, will work with fishermen and other allies to shepherd the new classifications through the council.

Once the scientific case is made, we will advocate limits on destructive

Centuries of growth can be wiped out in an instant

fishing practices as well as oil and gas exploration in these sensitive areas. "This is a good first step," says our marine ecologist Dr. Jacob Kritzer. "Next we need to work out and put in place enforceable rules to protect this important resource all along the coast."

Is a Super Slab heading your way?

Colorado developer Ray Wells stunned residents this spring when he claimed the authority to build an eight-lane super-highway past Denver, invoking a frontier-era law meant for wagon roads. The 210-mile private toll road, known locally as the Super Slab, could plow through the area's remaining short-grass prairie and force hundreds of homeowners off their land.

Environmental Defense met with Wells and then worked with legislators and Environment Colorado to craft a measure requiring private roads to meet the same standards as interstates.

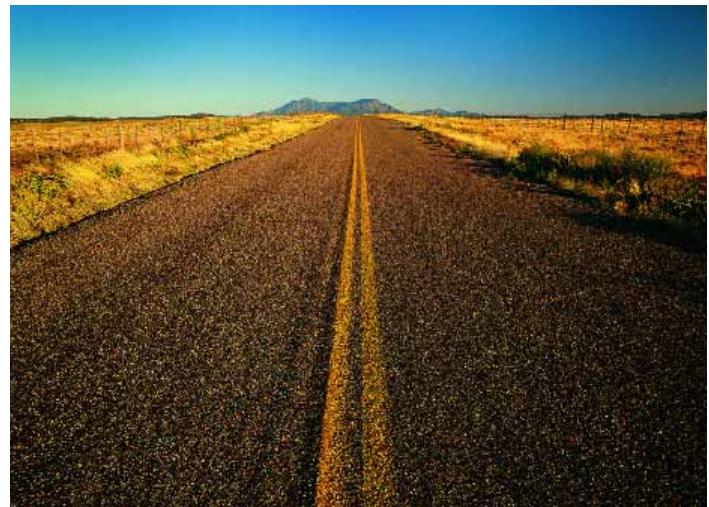
"Environmental Defense had the expertise. They were the only ones on our side who understood the federal environmental process," says the bill's sponsor, representative Jack Pomer. The measure won unanimous support from the legislature. Wells, looking to provide certainty to investors, also backed the bill.

The Colorado conflict points to a growing trend. Cash-strapped states from California to Georgia are turning

to tolls and private money to finance new roads. "With the right rules, private investment and tolls can get better projects built faster," says our transportation director Michael Replogle.

Tolls also can ease congestion and increase travel options. On San Diego's I-15, solo drivers can pay to use faster carpool lanes, with tolls funding high-speed bus service.

But some toll projects have used private involvement to skirt environmental rules. In Texas, officials granted sweeping powers to a private consortium for a 4,000-mile toll-road network, provoking a statewide backlash. The Colorado measure could establish a bet-



Digital Vision

ter model for such projects.

Unfortunately, Governor Bill Owens vetoed the bill, saying he fears dampening private investment. "We'll continue working to ensure that communities and the environment aren't sacrificed to private dollars," says our Colorado regional director Tim Sullivan.

Bringing clean energy to the world's poor

Over the next half century, the world will invest \$16 trillion in new energy production. If nothing changes, most of the money will go into coal-fired power plants in developing countries. The plants will spew carbon dioxide, turning those countries into major global warming polluters. Yet this

would barely keep up with population growth; 1.4 billion people still would have no electricity.

There is a better way to bring clean energy to the poor, who now must cook with lung-damaging fuels like sticks and dung and can't power the lights or machines they need to work their way out of poverty. Environmental Defense has joined forces with E+Co, a small nonprofit founded by Phil LaRocco, whom *The New York Times* recently called "a light to the world's poor."

E+Co provides small loans and training to entrepreneurs in Africa, Asia and Latin America, helping them start businesses to deliver power to the poorest

of the poor, using low-carbon sources, like solar and wind, that don't contribute to global warming.

Until now, E+Co has blended foundation and government funding with private investment. Of the 120 new businesses they have supported—serving two million people in 35 countries—nearly all have repaid their loans. Now Environmental Defense sees an opportunity for a new source of financing: the global carbon market.

We will provide our market expertise to link E+Co's small-scale energy producers to the valuable currency created by the Kyoto global warming treaty: carbon credits. If these entrepreneurs can get credit for their carbon savings, they will be able to lower their prices and reach more of the poor, while helping address the serious problem of global warming.



Ron Giling/Peter Arnold
Renewable power could translate into money for developing nations.

Is there a role for nuclear power?

A number of bills before Congress call for funding nuclear power plants to address global warming, but significant questions of safety and security remain. Environmental Defense believes that climate change is so serious that we need to consider every low-carbon energy option, but we cannot support the expansion of nuclear generating capability until these questions are addressed. We need a rigorous federal research program so our nation will have the information to

make sound decisions in the future. Our chief scientist Dr. Bill Chameides explains:

Q Is nuclear power a potential remedy for global warming?

A We know of at least a dozen ways to reduce or offset global warming pollution. But no one method can achieve sufficient reductions; we'll need about half of them together. Nuclear power is one option, but a highly problematic one. The single most effective step the United States can take is to set a mandatory cap on carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases, which will spur investment in cheaper, safer ways of cutting emissions.

Q How safe and secure are nuclear power plants?

A The U.S. safety record is impressive: 103 nuclear plants have provided about 20% of our electricity for decades with no significant release of radiation. But current plants will reach the end of their useful lives over the next several decades, while demand for electricity continues to increase. Just to maintain that 20% share could mean a doubling of the number of plants, which would make current safety standards inadequate to



Three Mile Island is a stark reminder of the nuclear industry's liabilities.

Kalim Bhatti/AP Photo
that documents relating to its safety may have been falsified.

Q Is there an alternative to long-term storage?

A One proposal is to store waste in centralized, interim facilities, good for 100 years or so. The advantage is that if something goes wrong, the containers are easily reached, and new technologies can be adopted as they're developed. But this hands the problem to the next generation. Another option is reprocessing the

spent fuel, which still contains 99% of the uranium's energy. But a byproduct is plutonium, used to make bombs. What's critical is to assess all options and settle on a safe, workable solution to the waste problem before committing to new plants.

Q Should regulations be eased to spur faster expansion, as some have proposed?

A No. You can't expand nuclear power based on its safety record while loosening the cautious process of licensing plants. Nuclear power has been safe because it is tightly regulated.



Joe Cavaretta/AP Photo
Do we need to switch tracks? After 20 years, the Yucca Mountain waste site still has not been approved.

NEWS BRIEFS

Landmark legislation will make New York City's air healthier

New York City reaffirmed its reputation as a trend setter this spring when Mayor Bloomberg signed a set of landmark bills to clean up the city's air. The new laws, which Environmental Defense helped craft, require clean air technology for the city's fleets of cars, diesel trucks, school buses, sanitation trucks and

sightseeing buses.

"Diesel tailpipes are like giant cigarettes," says Andy Darrell, director of our Living Cities program. "They produce over 80% of the cancer risk in the air New Yorkers breathe." The new legislation requires the city to use the best available technology to reduce soot and

smog from diesel engines by as much as 90%. It also requires improvements in fuel efficiency, which will reduce global warming pollution.

Environmental Defense played a pivotal role in negotiations between the mayor, the city council and the private sector. We are now working with other cities, including Boston, Houston and Los Angeles, to develop similar clean air programs. "New York's

commitment could set a precedent for the country and help drive the market for clean vehicles," says Darrell.

New bills clean up mercury in old cars



David H. Wells/Corbis

New York residents will still have to put up with the grinding noises, but the inky black smoke will be gone.

Beyond recycling: New paper policy goes directly to the source

Bank of America already considers itself "best in class" in paper reduction and recycling—and with good reason. From 2000 to 2004, the Charlotte-based financial services company increased its assets from \$670 billion to \$1 trillion while decreasing its internal paper use by 32%. But a new paper procurement policy the bank developed with Environmental Defense goes even further.

The new policy not only expands the bank's decade-long reduction and recycling programs but also pushes into new territory. Bank of America suppliers must now guarantee that their providers of paper products manage forests using environmentally preferable practices. They must take steps to protect rare forests threatened by human or commercial activity, and may not convert natural

forests into tree plantations.

"These are more than sweeping statements," says Robert Bonnie, our deputy program director for ecosystems. "We worked to make the policy realistic as well as pathbreaking."



Banking on sustainable forestry.



Photodisc

Each year mercury puts as many as 630,000 babies at risk.

Old cars don't just fade away—they continue polluting, even after they're junked. When vehicles are melted for scrap metal, toxic mercury used in switches for both brakes and trunk lights spews into the air. Environmental Defense helped press automakers to phase out mercury switches in 2002, but an estimated 100 million switches remain in older vehicles that will one day be junked.

We and our allies secured legislation in Maine requiring automakers to pay for removing and recycling the switches. To build pressure for national action, we helped win similar measures this spring in Arkansas, New Jersey and Rhode Island. Bills are pending in nine other states, including California.

Now EPA is developing a rule to limit mercury emissions from the scrap furnaces that process old auto parts nationwide. We're working to ensure that the rule is effective and the costs fairly allocated. "Automakers need to share the responsibility for managing their mercury mess, so that they will make better design decisions in the future," says our Pollution Prevention Alliance director Kevin Mills.

Green living

Cut those carbs

Check out these resources to help offset global warming pollution.

An "all-volunteer nonprofit," Carbonfund.org helps figure and offset your personal carbon generation (649 C Street SE, Suite 203, Washington, DC 20003; carbonfund.org).

Purchase green tags for your electricity through such national suppliers as: Community Energy (150 Strafford Avenue, Suite 110, Wayne, PA 19087; 866-WIND-123; www.newwindenergy.com) or Bonneville Environmental Foundation (133 SW 2nd Avenue, Suite 410, Portland, OR 97204; 503-248-1905; www.greentagsusa.org).

E+Co operates a revolving loan fund (E-Volve), with a minimum donation of \$500, that invests in clean energy projects around the world (383 Franklin Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003; 973-680-9100; energyhouse.com).

On the road, in the air

The Better World Club, an alternative to AAA motor clubs, offers carbon-offset programs along with emergency roadside service and other benefits. (2235-A NW Savier Street, Portland OR; 97210; 866-238-1137; betterworldclub.com).

Travelers can offset their trips through Climate Care (115 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RQ, United Kingdom; +44-0-1865-207-000; climatecare.org) or Sustainable Travel International (3250 O'Neal Circle, Suite H-11, Boulder, CO 80301; 720-273-2975; sustainabletravelinternational.org).



Fly the guilt-free skies.

John Terence Turner/Getty Images

Take my carbon. Please. HOW TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING WITHOUT UPENDING YOUR LIFESTYLE

Every time you drive a car, fly in a plane or turn up the heat on your furnace, you're adding to global warming. In fact, every year the typical American generates a whopping ten tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas. Altogether, those individual uses add up to 40% of American emissions. Pretty daunting, we know, but now there's something you can do about it. You can "offset," or cancel out, your carbon emissions.

Here's how it works:

Through a nonprofit group, you buy the same emission reduction credits that businesses buy and sell in the international carbon market. These credits are generated by groups and companies involved in reforestation, energy efficiency and alternative energy projects that keep carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

For instance, someone might plant enough trees on your behalf to absorb all the carbon dioxide that your driving, fly-

ing and other activities emit.

The idea is already catching on internationally. The famous "coals to Newcastle" city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for example, is taking steps to become the first carbon neutral town. And celebrities—from music groups like Foo Fighters and David Gray to actors like Leonard DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz—are sponsoring carbon offsets.

There are several variations of this idea, some of which allow you to be an investor in carbon offsets, rather than a charitable donor. Here are a few good examples:

- **Carbon offsets.** Determine your personal CO₂ emissions by calculating home and office energy and vehicle use. To become "Kyoto compliant," you'll need to offset your CO₂ down to 6% below average 1990 levels (average price, \$33; students, \$22.50). Offsets are available for both individuals and families.

* Guest columnist Jim Motavalli is editor of E/The Environmental Magazine (for subscription information: 800-967-6572 or emagazine.com). Opinions are the author's. Environmental Defense does not recommend any investment, and this article is not meant to provide personal investment advice; consult a professional advisor before making any investment.

• **Carbon investments.** You can help provide renewable power in the developing world and make a modest profit too.* E+Co manages investments of \$25,000 or more to fund the work of energy entrepreneurs. It also accepts donations in smaller amounts. (*See story on page 7.*)

• **Green tags.** Some clean energy organizations offer offsets in partnership with local electric companies. Green tags pay for the slightly higher cost of generating solar, wind or biomass energy. Check with the national suppliers in the box on page 10 or ask your electric company if it has a green power program. You can't get wind or solar power directly through the grid, but you can have the same effect.

• **Travel lightly.** Climate Care can help you figure out your per-trip emissions. For, say, a round-trip flight to Argentina from New York's JFK Airport, you'll



Photodisc

There are many ways to offset your carbon emissions. Planting trees is one.

generate 2.39 tons of CO₂, which can be offset for \$27.19. Sustainable Travel International, which is aimed at eco-tourists and business travelers, offers a similar service. The money it generates supports, among others, a biomass energy project in India, a wastewater/energy enterprise in South Africa and solar energy in Costa Rica.

-Jim Motavalli*

Welcome, David Yarnold

In his 27 years at the *San Jose Mercury News*, our new executive vice president David Yarnold held the top editorial jobs, launched editions in Spanish and Vietnamese, served as diversity chair for the American Society of Newspaper Editors and—this year—was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize.

So why did he make the jump to Environmental Defense? "Most journalists believe at some level that they're out to change the world," he says. "Environmental Defense really is out to change the world. This organization is visionary and pragmatic and bridges many constituencies. I'm all about effectiveness. It makes no sense to holler into the wind if you can't actually create change."

An artist who protected the animals that inspired him



A modest man: Wah Ming Chang left a legacy that continues to support the efforts of Environmental Defense to protect endangered species.

acclaimed films about imperiled animals, from the tiny desert pupfish to the California sea otter. "They were among the first to go out with a camera and find the last few holdouts of pupfish," says lifelong friend David Barrow.

Chang was a child prodigy, discovered at age seven sketching on menus in his mother's San Francisco tea shop. By age nine, he had his first solo exhibition. In 1938, at the age of 21, Chang became the youngest member of Walt Disney's Effects and Model Department, reveling in Disney's

What do Bambi and the Pillsbury Doughboy have in common? Both came to life in the hands of the late Wah Ming Chang. The soft-spoken artist pioneered special effects for productions like *Pinocchio*, *Planet of the Apes* and *Star Trek*.

Chang also worked behind the scenes to protect the environment. He and his wife Glen created

creative heyday. Even after a bout of polio left him unable to walk without leg braces, Chang continued to explore new techniques. His special effects for the 1960 film *The Time Machine* won an Academy Award.

In 1970, the family quit Los Angeles for the lush Carmel Valley. In Carmel, Chang had the wildlife he loved all around him, and he began creating a series of animal sculptures that remain popular. "I think one of the things that fascinated him about animals was their movement, that kind of freedom," says Barrow.

As the Changs watched California grow crowded, they realized the wildlife they loved needed defending. So they decided to support Environmental Defense through their estate. "They didn't have income to give away during their lifetimes, but they wanted their money to protect the environment after they were gone," says our planned giving director Anne Doyle. The Changs' nearly 60-year love affair ended when Glen died in 1997. Wah passed away in 2003, but their money continues to support projects to restore wildlife habitat and preserve the natural diversity they cherished.

To learn about protecting the environment through your estate, call us toll free, 1-877-677-7397, or write: Anne B. Doyle, Environmental Defense, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010 or adoyle@environmentaldefense.org.

The return of the ivory-billed woodpecker

IN ARKANSAS'S BIG WOODS, A 'LORD GOD' BIRD REAPPEARS LIKE A FEATHERED GHOST



Peter Hayman/Birdlife Rare Bird Club

The largest woodpecker in North America was famously called the 'Lord God' bird because that's what people exclaimed when they saw it.

The sight of it brought tears of joy to birders and inspired the Bush administration to pledge \$10 million to protect its habitat. Called the Holy Grail of bird watching, the ivory-billed woodpecker was for 60 years thought to be extinct. That was until this spring, when a team of scientists confirmed a sighting in a cypress and tupelo swamp in Arkansas's Cache River National Wildlife Refuge.

"I can't begin to tell you how thrilling it is," said John Fitzpatrick, head of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Few creatures have been more celebrated

by naturalists or shrouded in mystery than the ivory bill, described by John James Audubon as the "great chieftain of the woodpecker tribe."

Once the signature bird of the vast bottomland hardwood forests of the Southeast, its numbers dwindled as the forests fell to logging and conversion to cropland. The woodpecker inspired one of America's first conservation efforts, but its seeming demise turned it into a symbol of loss. The last documented sighting was in Louisiana in 1944.

A REWARD FOR OUR EARLY WORK

Our attorney James Tripp is one of many heroes in this story. In 1972, Environmental Defense won an injunction against an Army Corps of Engineers' plan to force the Cache River into a channel, which would have drained wetlands and accelerated the conversion of forests to agriculture.

The victory, backed by scientific testimony, halted work on the project and educated the public about the irreplaceable value of wetlands. "We were able to use a new tool at the time, the National Environmental Policy Act, to require the Corps to conduct an environmental impact study,"

explains Tripp.

Four years later the court ended the injunction, but by then Tripp was able to use a provision of the Clean Water Act to force a further examination. Tripp was appointed to an EPA task force to develop an alternate plan, which led to the project's cancellation and the creation of the wildlife refuge where the bird was recently sighted.

Today we are using equally innovative approaches to protect habitat on private lands. "This is important," notes our Center for Conservation Incentives director Robert Bonnie, "because nearly 90% of southern forests are privately owned." Our Safe Harbor program, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recruits landowners to improve habitat and promises that no new restrictions on their land will result.

The rediscovery of the magnificent ivory-billed woodpecker shows the resilience of wildlife, but it also dramatizes the need for protecting wild lands such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, many of which are threatened today.



David Muench/Corbis

By the 1970s, more than 80% of the bottomland hardwood forests in the Mississippi basin had been cleared.



Solutions

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